

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Per discussion between the Examiner and Applicant's representative Thomas Krul on December 20, 2004, it was noted by Applicant that the office action summary page identified that Claims 1-8 are withdrawn and Claims 7-13 are rejected. The Examiner agreed that only Claims 1-6 are withdrawn from consideration. The status of the Claims is therefore Claims 1-6 are withdrawn, Claims 7-13 stand rejected, and Claims 14-17 are allowed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 08211398 (Hitachi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is initially noted Claim 7 has been amended to recite in part:

"the dummy patterns including a plurality of dummy pattern rows aligned parallel to each other and to the elongated conductors, and in which electrooptical material is disposed on said conductor pattern, wherein said plurality of dummy conductors disposed in an array direction of said plurality of conductors to constitute said dummy pattern are mutually separated by gaps in an extending direction of said plurality of elongated conductors, the gaps in adjacent dummy pattern rows being shifted out of alignment from each other with respect to the extending direction".

Figure 1 of Hitachi (JP08211398) appears to disclose a plurality of dummy electrodes 8D1-8D4, which are formed under segment electrodes 9a, 9b and 9c, and dummy patterns 9D1-9D3 that are formed under electrodes 8. Hitachi does not disclose dummy pattern rows having gaps between the dummy conductors that are shifted out of alignment with each other, or gaps between dummy conductors that are shifted out of alignment with each other with respect to an extending direction of the conductors as recited in amended Claim 7. Hitachi therefore cannot anticipate amended Claim 7. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 7.

It is initially noted Claim 8 has been amended to recite in part:

“said conductor pattern having a dummy pattern, said dummy pattern being a plurality of dummy conductors formed in at least a second area on said base, said dummy conductors being arranged in rows of dummy conductors, each row being parallel to an adjacent row and to said elongated conductors, said rows being separated by a gap, the gaps in adjacent dummy pattern rows being shifted out of alignment from each other with respect to an extending direction of said elongated conductors”.

As noted above with respect to Claim 7, Hitachi does not disclose dummy pattern rows having gaps between the dummy conductors that are shifted out of alignment with each other, or gaps between dummy conductors that are shifted out of alignment with each other with respect to an extending direction of the conductors as recited in

amended Claim 8. Hitachi therefore cannot anticipate amended Claim 8. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 8. Because Claims 9-13 depend from Claim 8, Hitachi cannot anticipate Claims 9-13 for at least the same reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claims 9-13.

Claim 9 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis for “the extending direction” of the plurality of conductors.

Support for the amendments to Claims 7 and 8 is provided in the last paragraph of both pages 9, 18 and the paragraph of page 16 of the specification and as shown in Figures 2 and 3.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

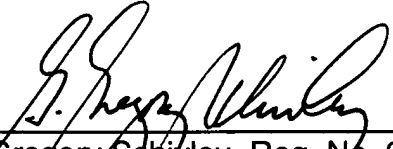
The Examiner states that Claims 14-17 are allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indication of allowed subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
G. Gregory Schwley, Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade, Reg. No. 40,344
Attorneys for Applicant

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGs/TJK/mmk